



Rush County Industrial Development, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

January 2014

2013 - A Year of Steady Growth and Change

An Expanded RCID: In February the Annual Meeting voted to allow sale of additional stock in RCID. Since RCID is a 501c(6) not-for-profit organization as defined by the IRS, stock holders cannot collect dividends or gain direct financial benefit. However, an investment in RCID is an investment in your county that has the potential to produce significant indirect benefits. By inviting new investors, we are bringing new ideas and a new generation of owners to help ensure the future of our county for years to come. Stock will be released in the next few months.

June Jaunt: In 2012, a tourism coalition including all counties along K-96 highway from the Colorado border to Barton County was formed. In June, the coalition sponsored the second annual "June Jaunt" May 31-June 2. RCID contributed funds and support to the project which centered around events in Rush Center. Although, the turnout was less than expected, the project continues to bring people to the county. RCED will again support the project in 2013. Several changes are being made to make the event more appealing.

Retiring Members: At the Annual Meeting, the board reluctantly accepted the resignations of President Harry Schneider, and long-time Director Diz Washaliski. In June, a retirement dinner was held in their honor and each was presented with a certificate of appreciation for their many years of dedication and hard work. In November, the committee accepted the resignation of Mike Pivonka, who had also chosen to retire from the board. Mr. Pivonka will be honored at a future date.

Locust Grove Village: In 2012, RCID pledged \$5,000 in support toward construction of an expansion to Locust Grove Village (formerly Rush County Nursing Home) for an assisted living



A new public entrance takes shape as part of the expansion of Locust Grove Village.

facility. After exceeding 80% of their fund-raising goal, Locust Grove broke ground for the new facility in May 2013. The \$750,000 goal was reached before the end of 2013 and the new facility is scheduled for completion in May 2014.

Historical Society Has a Successful Year

One of the most notable events of 2013 was the year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Rush County Historical Society. The Society participated in over 50 events during the year in communities across the county. The "Old-Fashioned Christmas" celebration attracted over 200 people during the four-hour celebration held in November. Also, during the year, the annual Barbed Wire Swap & Sell was held in conjunction with the Barbed Wire Supershow in May in La Crosse. The 2013 event was the largest in several decades. Event promoters changed the focus of the barbed wire weekend to be more of a family-oriented community festival.

Rush County Industrial Development, Rush County Economic Development, the Kansas Barbed Wire Collectors Association and the Rush County Chamber of Commerce worked in cooperation with the Historical Society during most of these events. The cooperation between the organizations has brought a renewed spirit of enthusiasm to Rush County.

Who is RCID?

RCID is a stockholder-owned, not-for-profit Kansas corporation established in 1969 and reorganized in 1989. Its official **Statement of Purpose** is "To promote the development of Rush County and to offer benefits to the patrons of Rush County".

The board of directors of Rush County Industrial Development also serves as the administrative board for Rush County Economic Development (RCED). RCED, in cooperation with the Rush County Commission, administers tax funds designated for economic development.

www.rushcounty.org: The county website continues to attract nearly 80,000 visitors annually. Several pages have been added to the site to feature events in each of our communities. The site continues to draw attention from throughout the United States and several other countries.

Tourism Brochure: In 2013, RCID and RCED pledged support and matching funds toward a Tourism Marketing Grant from Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism to produce a full-color tourism brochure. In October, the committee was notified the grant would be awarded pending some minor design changes to the brochure. It is scheduled for distribution by fall of 2014.